

Centenary United Methodist Church
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CENTENARYCHURCH
a place at the table

May, 2024



Doubt, Grace, Storms & Rocks



A few years ago, I was at Lightning in a Bottle, a modern-day Woodstock held annually in California. As I strolled from venue to venue, I happened to stop at a vendor's booth filled with various wooden carvings. The one that said, "I like you just the way you are" caught my eye, as if it was a flashing neon sign from God, an updated version of the old hymn "Just as I Am."

I brought it home to add to my favorite piece of pottery, an intentionally misshapen bowl. Full of rocks from my travels, assorted prayer beads, and other ordinary objects that have carried Divine messages over the years, it is part of an "altar," where I go to still the chaos of my mind and the world and to listen for affirmations that "All Shall Be Well".

Those of you who have been around for a while may recall a local celebrity weatherman named Bill Powell. Bill was a folksy, bald, everyman sort who was much loved, despite the fact he would have a hard time making it in the glitzy world of television today. He had a way of sharing nuggets of wisdom along with the weather forecast whether stormy or sunny. He signed off each day with this benediction, "Everybody's got their own sack of rocks to tote around."

In a recent sermon Sara preached on doubt, she bravely self-identified as a doubting Thomas. She then invited all of us to share our own doubts on an index card and place them on the altar during communion. Later she shared her surprise at the number of folks who expressed their doubt as not being "enough," despite her weekly benediction that we are all beloved children of God worthy of love and respect and through whom God will change the world.

The "not enough" mantra is a sack of rocks many of us tote around beneath a façade of faith and confidence. Could it be that in our unexpressed doubts about our faith, we quickly grab for the "I'm not enough" explanation?

Throughout Lent and beyond a wonderfully courageous group journeyed through the book, *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr, as we learned and shared what it means to cultivate a mature faith. Rohr writes, "One of the markers of an evolving faith is an ability to integrate doubt—to hold the tension between what we've been taught and what we've come to know as true. When grounded in an experience of Love, doubt does not represent a step backwards, but is a necessary condition for any movement forward."

To be honest, the older I get, the less I am certain about most things. Perhaps we must release our death grip on certainty, our demand for it, to experience the power and mystery of God's grace that allows us not only to hear we are beloved but to truly believe it.

P.S. "I like you just the way you are" and that is precisely where God meets us all.

“
“When I'm in
doubt, the
"I'm not enough"
explanation is
often the first
thing I grab.”

Brené Brown

YOUR CENTENARY STAFF

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Video Production

Elliott Dunwody

Who we are:

We are an intentionally diverse, radically hospitable, perfectly imperfect, countercultural community committed to rediscovering the mysteries of our faith.

You are invited:

Join us around the sacred table to which we are all invited to be fed spiritually, emotionally, intellectually, and physically and at which we all belong. Come connect, grow, serve, and play as together we strive to become the wholly authentic selves God has made us to be.

We believe that God has given every person a gift.

We want to be the type of place where you are excited to use your gift in service to your church and community! What is it that you are passionate about?

Can we help in any way to turn your passions and dreams into lived reality?

Beth Dunwody

How to Worship Online

Our services can be accessed weekly through the **Centenary Community Facebook page** (no Facebook Account required), our website, www.centenarymacon.org (under the worship menu tab), as well as through the weekly worship email.

Worship in May

Signs of New Life Sermon Series

- May 5: **Communion Sunday**
1 Kings 19:4-8
Eric Mayle preaching
- May 12: "Rooted as New Life"
Psalms 1
- May 19: **Pentecost Sunday**
Acts 2:1-21
- May 26: "The Pits of Life"
Psalms 81
Gary Starrett preaching

If you have items for the June newsletter, please bring or email them to the office by **Tuesday, May 14**. Be sure to include date, time, place and contact information.

Greeters & Counters



- May 5 — **Pat McMahon & Kathleen Sheil**
Counting—Bobby Stecher
- May 12 — **Richard & Elaine Davies**
Counting—Michael Williams
- May 19 — **Alan Fordham & Carolyn Holmes**
Counting—Julia Norman
- May 26 — **Debbie Krafft & John Holik**
Counting—Dianne Buck

Prayers for All

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Eloise Harrison | Anna Bush | Carol Lee Money |
| Kit Jensen | Barry Horton | Davina Gray |
| Jonathan Hutchison | Beverly Hickman | Marnie Gray |
| Johnny Davis | Dallas Stokes | Greg Krafft |
| Graison McGehee | Dr. Ned DeJournett | Sandra Rogers |
| Hinda Jonathan | Laura Green | Jody Lewis |
| Norah Hanson | Natalia Welch | Mary Darragh |
| Ben Brantley | Jon Eric Fischer | Karen Martin |
| Josie Wales Rawls | Haley Snow | James Smith |
| Jeanette Vesely | Thomas Johnson Sr. | Wrenley Anne Webster |
| Beth Grace Strachman | Amber Deavers | Glen Nickel |
| Angie Lann | Ian S. Gomez | |
| Chloe Hanson | Teri Hatley | |



YTD Comparative Finances Through March

	2024	2023	Change
Income	\$ 99,998	\$ 89,945	\$ 10,053
Expenses	106,152	102,055	4,097
Net	\$ (6,154)	\$(12,110)	\$ 5,956

YTD income is up over \$10,000 compared to the first quarter last year. Our YTD deficit is \$5,956 less than last year. Thanks be to God for your generosity!

CENTENARYCHURCH
a place at the table

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY'S TACO DINNER

Join us in the Centenary Fellowship Hall for tacos, fellowship and fun from 5:30-7pm!

Wed, May 1
\$5/adults, \$15/family max
RSVP by April 28 at office@centenarymacon.org

MACON PRIDE NIGHT WITH THE BACON

JUNE 27, 2024
7 P.M.



Featuring:

- Game Admission
- Happy Hour Pricing
- A FREE Macon Bacon Hat
- All-You-Can-Eat hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken sandwiches, cookies, soda, water, and more

JUST \$17 PER TICKET!

The Downtown Tapestry is joining together this summer with two camp offerings for our kids and youth! Mulberry Street UMC, First Baptist Church of Christ, High Street Unitarian Universalist and Centenary will combine for June 17-21 for Vacation Bible School! This year's theme is Camp Firelight.

Kids can signup to participate in VBS here: <https://www.cognitofirms.com/ElisaReece/VBSParticipantRegistrationMulberryStreetUMC>

Adults and youth can signup to volunteer using this form: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E44AAA922A4F5C70-47627106-vacation>



Join us for combined Vacation Bible School at Mulberry Street UMC!

June 17-21 from 9-12pm, PreK through rising 5th (youth can signup as helpers with Pastor Sara!)
Aftercare until 5pm for church members at \$100/kid
Join us for a great week of singing, crafts, science, missions, and sharing how God is our light so we don't have to be afraid!

Please reach out to Pastor Sara if you need aftercare for your child.

2024 UMC General Conference Q&A

Join us in the sanctuary following our May 19th worship for an opportunity to learn more about what happened at the 2024 UMC General Conference.



If you have questions about anything you're hearing in the news please reach out to Pastor Sara at sara@centenarymacon.org

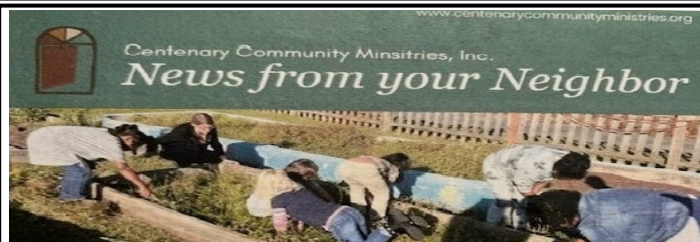
Sunday May 19th
12:15 pm
Centenary Sanctuary



We'll learn from:
Temple Beth Israel
High Street Unitarian Universalist
Macon Quakers
Ocmulgee Mounds Staff
Islamic Center in Macon

June 24-27 from 9-5pm
Rising 1st Grade through 8th
Learn more about our interfaith neighbors by visiting places of worship and doing missions together
\$50/student and includes shirt
Register by June 3

Registration is \$50/child for this 9-5pm camp. Please signup on this google form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ckaaO2tTtjM3I3J4nRHO9tRzh3NjiZwxp9eeGwukjK0/edit?ts=65e9de4f>



**COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM
Shepherding Ministry
Centenary Church**

Centenary seeks to build community, to know and serve God and to support one another in this journey of life. Everyone is a cherished child of God worthy of respect, acceptance and love. Shepherding is a style of discipleship that offers and provides care to God's people. Many of us can give the gift of our experience, strength, and hope to those in transition. We can be a powerful tool to help our transitional housing participant to discover how to unlock and achieve his potential—to live a life of stability, free of drugs and alcohol abuse and to become self-sufficient.

Each participant will be placed with a shepherd selected from our faith community to assist them through this period of transformation. The shepherds will be informed to understand and prepare for their role and responsibilities. Then, throughout the relationship, ongoing support will be given from the Outreach staff.

A shepherd is a caring, loving individual who is concerned with the well-being and safety of others. He/she is a good listener, committed and responsible, respectful, and able to be a part of a team. A shepherd's role is to help the participant to achieve their potential and discover the success of a transformed life through God's grace. A shepherd is not to make decisions for the participant. Instead, he/she will listen, encourage and guide them to find positive solutions to issues, while assisting them in setting goals, assisting in making healthy choices, and offering advice when a different perspective is needed. Shepherds will celebrate successes and help their participants discover unique gifts and talents they possess.

A participant's primary role is to be totally committed to transforming his/her life. They must be motivated to reach for a different type of life and they must exhibit a desire to break the cycle of poverty and be willing to work. The participant must be willing to work with a role-model and able to receive support along with candid feedback. They must be accountable to their assigned shepherd. Through the shepherding program, a mutual trust, love and respect will be developed; thus, a significant progress will be made toward completing the participant's goal.

If you feel called to serve as a shepherd, reach out to melissa@centenarymacon.org to learn more.

**CCMI Fundraiser
Mother's Day Cake Sale**

Contact: Julie and Tara Darragh 478-951-5811 darraghjulie2525@gmail.com
Name and Phone: _____

Cake	Small	Quantity	Large	Quantity
Coconut Cake Sheet	\$15		\$25	
Blackberry Wine Cake Bundt	\$15		\$25	
Carrot Cake Layer	\$15		\$25	
Peanut Butter Cake Layer	\$15		\$25	
Mississippi Mud Sheet	\$15		\$25	
Caramel Cake Layer	\$15		\$25	
Strawberry Cake Layer	\$15		\$25	
Key Lime Cake Sheet	\$15		\$25	
5 Flavor Pound Cake Bundt	\$20		\$35	
Pound Cake Bundt	\$20		\$35	
Apple Pie	\$20			

Pickup after Church Service on 5/12/2024
Special Request pickup on 5/10/2024
Payment at pickup: Cash, Check, Venmo

Join us in celebrating Rose as she retires from being our Administrative Assistant at Centenary!

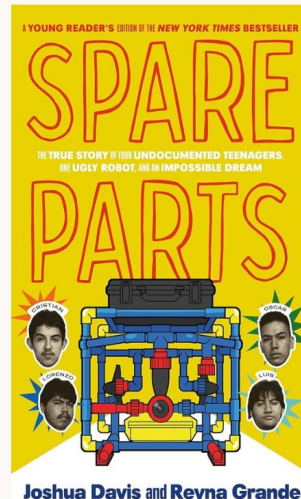


Bring a card of thanks for Rose!

Sunday, May 12

A presentation during worship and reception following

CENTENARY WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB



Join our monthly book club for a great time of conversation around "Spare Parts" by Joshua Davis and Reyna Grande. Contact Karol Daniel for more information at karoldaniel@gmail.com

Sun, May 19 at 3pm



Ladies Luncheon is an exciting and growing group of gay men and their friends who gather for Sunday lunch and conversation the first Sunday of each month.

Anyone interested is welcome. For restaurant location call Don at 404-556-0729



Women's Interfaith Alliance
of Central Georgia

May Luncheon/Meeting
Monday, May 6, 2024
12:00noon until 2:00PM
Covered Dish Luncheon

Bring a dish (labeled) and serving utensil

Byron United Methodist Church
103 West Heritage St, Byron

Our theme for this year has been:
Transformation: Rituals and Practices:
Sharing of our various Faith Traditions and Personal Experiences

May Topic: Sacred Texts

Please bring a passage to share from your Sacred Text that has special meaning for you.

For information email flosappmartin@aol.com

Meet Jen!

Jen (she/her) is a Georgia native, originally from Atlanta and our newest member of staff here at Centenary. While she has spent many years working in healthcare, her passions reach far beyond caring for people within the medical field and she has an extraordinary calling to build inclusivity and support authentic human connections within the community.

When Jen isn't working, you can often find her an active participant in numerous social and personal growth groups, where she engages in a multitude of activities including contemplative practices, book clubs, healing and wellness hikes, creative arts exploration and more. Connect at jen@centenarymacon.org.



*Wishing you
a blessed and peace-filled
Mother's Day!*

Sunday Schedule:

7:30am — Community Breakfast

9:30am — Sunday Study-Hybrid

10:00am — Children’s Class

10:20am — Choir in Round Room

11:00am — **Worship in Sanctuary**

11:00am — Nueva Vida
in Fellowship Hall

Centenary/CCMI



May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>28 “Love as New Life” <i>1 John 4:7-21</i> Baptism of Jojo O’Connor</p> <p>6:00pm — AA</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:30pm—Willingway Comm. Continuing Care</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:30pm—Wesley Worship, Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>1</p> <p>12:00pm—Gender and Sexuality: LGBTQIA Class</p> <p>5:30pm—Wonderful Wednesday Meal</p>	<p>2 National Day of Prayer</p>	<p>3 General Conference Ends</p>	<p>4 2:00pm—Quaker Group</p>
<p>5 Communion Eric Mayle preaching! <i>1 Kings 19:4-8</i> Tapestry Youth @ Mulberry — 4:00-6:00PM</p> <p>6:00pm—AA</p>	<p>6</p> <p>12:00pm—Women’s Interfaith Alliance</p> <p>6:30pm—Willingway Comm. Continuing Care</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:30pm—Wesley Worship, Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>8</p> <p>12:00pm—Gender and Sexuality: LGBTQIA Class</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 It’s “Trust Your Intuition Day” - what do you hear that still, small voice saying?</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 Mothers’ Day “Rooted as New Life” <i>Psalm 1</i> Celebration for Rose 12:15pm Pastor Sara to Valdosta</p> <p>6:00pm—AA</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:00pm — Macon Periods Easier Board meeting</p> <p>6:30pm—Willingway Comm. Continuing Care</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:30am—Staff Meeting</p> <p>12:00pm—Gender and Sexuality: LGBTQIA Class</p>	<p>16</p> <p>12:00pm—Neuro Divergent Parents Support Group</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 Pentecost <i>Acts 2:1-21</i> General Conference Q & A—12:15pm 3:00pm—Book Group Tapestry Youth 4—6 pm</p> <p>6:00pm—AA</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30pm—Willingway Comm. Continuing Care</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Last Day of School in Macon-Bibb</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Aldersgate Day Like John Wesley, when has your heart been “strangely warmed?”</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 “The Pits of Life” <i>Psalm 81</i> Gary Starrett preaching</p> <p>6:00pm—AA</p>	<p>27 Memorial Day</p> <p>6:30pm—Willingway Comm. Continuing Care</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 National Creativity Day -- What piece of art inspires you?</p>	<p>31 National Smile Day — share the gift of a smile with someone!</p>	<p>1 2:00pm—Quaker Group</p>

